[Translation]

Investment in coal sector

5462. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA:

SHRI NITISH KUMAR:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether coal production sector in the country has been developing as a profit earning industry for the last some years;

(b) if so, whether the production of coal can be increased by meeting the shortage of capital investment in this industry;

(c) if so, the details of the capital investment made in this sector during each of the three years; and

(d) the need of total capital investment estimated on the basis of Government's assessment during the said years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) The coal India Ltd. and the Singareni Collieries Company Ltd. engaged in coal mining in public sector have earned profits/suffered losses during the last three years as under:-

(Rs. in crores)

	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
CIL	400.32	29.73	611.44
SCCL	16.26	24.99	-190.80

[English]

Handicrafts Designing Centre

5463. SHRI A. SIDDARAJU: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up Hardicrafts Designing Centre in Mysore;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) No, Sir. A Regional Design & Technical Development Centre is already functioning in Bangalore.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Export of Rice

5464. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of basmati and non-basmati rice exported during each of the last three years, country-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to increase the export of both basmati and non-basmati rice during 1997-98;

(c) if so, the target fixed by the Government in this regard, separately; and

(d) if not, the steps taken by the Government to boost the export of rice during the current year and the time by which the ceiling for export of rice is likely to be fixed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) The total quantity of basmati and non-basmati rice exported during the last three years are as follows:-

Quantity: in Lakh Mts.

Year	Basmati Quantity	Non-Basmati Rice Quantity
1993-94	5.27	2.40
1994-95	4.69	4.23
1995-96	3.92	51.20
1996-97 (April-Feb.,'97)	4.20	18.85

(Source: DGCI&S, Calcutta)

Country-wise details of exports are given in the monthly bulletin/annual numbers of Foreign Trade Statistics of India published by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Calcutta, copies of which are available in the Parliament Library.

(b) and (c) The export projections for the Ninth Five Year Plan including the year 1997-98 have not been formulated. The exports of rice will depend upon the varieties traded, prices, consumer preferences and international demand and supply position.

(d) As per the current Export-Import Policy, export of rice both Basmati and non-Basmati rice are allowed freely without any quantitative and price restrictions. However, exports of Basmati rice are subject to registration with Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority. Some of the steps taken to boost export of rice include, inter-alia conducting publicity campaigns, delegations abroad, participating in International Trade Fairs, inviting potential buyers and providing financial assistance to exporters for improving quality, packaging, brand promotion of products and for conducting market surveys.

Open Cast Coal Mine in Maharashtra

5465. SHRI RAJABHAU THAKRE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Western Coalfields Ltd. propose to